

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 United States Patent and Trademark
 Office
 Box PCT
 Washington, D.C.20231
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 14 March 2000 (14.03.00)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/02462	Applicant's or agent's file reference MO37DTD4065
International filing date (day/month/year) 28 July 1999 (28.07.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29 July 1998 (29.07.98)
Applicant MERTENS, Machteld, M. et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

22 February 2000 (22.02.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election ☒ was☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Pascal Piriou
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
ABEL & IMRAY
 Attn. DARBY, D.
 20 Red Lion Street
 London WC1R 4PQ
 UNITED KINGDOM

ABEL & IMRAY	
CASE NO. 4065	G.C. JJC
25 NOV 1999	
A/C? Y	Y
CPA? Y	Y

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
 THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
 OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference M037DTD4065	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 23/11/1999
International application No. PCT/GB 99/ 02462	International filing date (day/month/year) 28/07/1999
Applicant EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS, INC. et al.	

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
 34, chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
 Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within 20 months from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Alex Schmidt
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NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference M037DTD4065	FOR FURTHER ACTION <small>see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</small>	
International application No. PCT/GB 99/ 02462	International filing date (day/month/year) 28/07/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 29/07/1998
Applicant EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS, INC. et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☒ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/02462

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C01B37/00 C01B39/02 C01B39/26 C01B39/44 C01B39/48
 B01J37/02 B01J29/04 B01J20/18 C10G3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C01B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 110 650 A (MOBIL OIL CORP) 13 June 1984 (1984-06-13) claims 1,9-11,13,14 page 2, line 27 - line 34 page 4, line 6 - line 21 page 5, line 1 - line 4 page 6, line 21 - line 30 page 9, line 18 - line 36 page 10, line 13 - line 20	1,2,5, 7-9,11, 15-17, 19,20, 22-24
A	---	12,13
X	WO 93 08124 A (EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS INC) 29 April 1993 (1993-04-29) claim 12 --- -/-	15,16



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
 "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
 "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
 "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
 "&" document: member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 November 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

23/11/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Rigondaud, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 99/02462

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97 03020 A (EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS INC) 30 January 1997 (1997-01-30) cited in the application claims 9,13,14,16 page 11, line 19 -page 12, line 11 ---	14-16
A	GORA L ET AL: "Investigations of secondary nucleation by initial breeding in clear solution zeolite NaA systems" ZEOLITES,US,ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHING, vol. 15, no. 6, page 526-534 XP004033560 ISSN: 0144-2449 the whole document ---	1
A	EP 0 202 797 A (MOBIL OIL CORP) 26 November 1986 (1986-11-26) column 7, line 5 - line 8 ---	1
A	GB 2 132 597 A (GRACE W R & CO) 11 July 1984 (1984-07-11) page 3, line 1 - line 2 ---	1
A	WO 93 08125 A (EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS INC) 29 April 1993 (1993-04-29) claim 13 ---	14
A	WO 94 25152 A (EXXON CHEMICAL LTD) 10 November 1994 (1994-11-10) cited in the application claim 1 ---	19,21
A	US 3 808 326 A (MC DANIEL C ET AL) 30 April 1974 (1974-04-30) -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No.

PCT/GB 99/02462

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0110650	A	13-06-1984	AU 564738 B	27-08-1987
			AU 2151183 A	31-05-1984
			BR 8306419 A	26-06-1984
			CA 1213576 A	04-11-1986
			DK 531283 A,B,	23-05-1984
			JP 1776025 C	28-07-1993
			JP 4063010 B	08-10-1992
			JP 59131521 A	28-07-1984
			NZ 206295 A	10-09-1986
			ZA 8308722 A	31-07-1985
WO 9308124	A	29-04-1993	CA 2122049 A	29-04-1993
			DE 69204850 D	19-10-1995
			DE 69204850 T	22-02-1996
			EP 0609270 A	10-08-1994
			ES 2077433 T	16-11-1995
			JP 7500561 T	19-01-1995
			MX 9206080 A	01-05-1993
			US 5672331 A	30-09-1997
WO 9703020	A	30-01-1997	AU 6699196 A	10-02-1997
			BR 9606509 A	23-12-1997
			CA 2199538 A	30-01-1997
			EP 0779877 A	25-06-1997
			JP 10505816 T	09-06-1998
EP 0202797	A	26-11-1986	AU 596587 B	10-05-1990
			AU 5704286 A	20-11-1986
			BR 8602130 A	13-01-1987
			CA 1261811 A	26-09-1989
			DE 3687592 A	11-03-1993
			DK 220586 A	15-11-1986
			JP 1869952 C	06-09-1994
			JP 5082326 B	18-11-1993
			JP 61261212 A	19-11-1986
			NZ 215987 A	27-07-1989
			US 4847055 A	11-07-1989
			US 4822941 A	18-04-1989
			US 5145659 A	08-09-1992
GB 2132597	A	11-07-1984	AU 562999 B	25-06-1987
			AU 2080883 A	05-07-1984
			CA 1215036 A	09-12-1986
			DE 3347123 A	05-07-1984
			ES 528391 A	16-05-1985
			FR 2538366 A	29-06-1984
			IT 1170009 B	03-06-1987
			JP 59121114 A	13-07-1984
			NL 8304446 A	16-07-1984
			US H282 H	02-06-1987
WO 9308125	A	29-04-1993	CA 2121788 A	29-04-1993
			DE 69221885 D	02-10-1997
			DE 69221885 T	02-04-1998
			EP 0609304 A	10-08-1994
			ES 2108764 T	01-01-1998
			JP 7502964 T	30-03-1995
			MX 9206078 A	01-05-1993

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No.

PCT/GB 99/02462

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9308125 A		SG 49056 A	18-05-1998
WO 9425152 A	10-11-1994	AT 168585 T	15-08-1998
		AU 6543694 A	21-11-1994
		AU 698909 B	12-11-1998
		AU 6648794 A	21-11-1994
		AU 9416798 A	18-02-1999
		BR 9406483 A	09-01-1996
		CA 2161231 A	10-11-1994
		CN 1124466 A	12-06-1996
		CN 1191771 A	02-09-1998
		DE 69406282 D	20-11-1997
		DE 69406282 T	28-05-1998
		DE 69411905 D	27-08-1998
		DE 69411905 T	25-03-1999
		WO 9425151 A	10-11-1994
		EP 0695215 A	07-02-1996
		EP 0695216 A	07-02-1996
		EP 0808655 A	26-11-1997
		JP 8509453 T	08-10-1996
		JP 9500081 T	07-01-1997
		SG 47944 A	17-04-1998
		SG 48109 A	17-04-1998
		US 5723397 A	03-03-1998
US 3808326 A	30-04-1974	NONE	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference M037DTD4065	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB 99/ 02462	International filing date (day/month/year) 28/07/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 29/07/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C01B37/00		
Applicant EXXON CHEMICAL PATENTS, INC. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


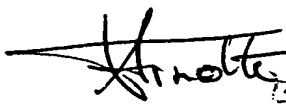

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consists of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 22/02/2000	Date of completion of this report 29.09.00
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0, Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer  

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn up on the basis of *(Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*

☒ the international application as originally filed

☐ the description, pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , filed with the letter of

☐ the claims, Nos. , as originally filed
Nos. , as amended under Article 19
Nos. , filed with the demand
Nos. , filed with the letter of

☐ the drawings, sheets / fig. , as originally filed
sheets / fig. , filed with the demand
sheets / fig. , filed with the letter of

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.
☐ the drawings, sheets / fig.

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2 (c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty	Claims	3, 4, 6 (7-15, 17-24)*	YES
	Claims	1, 2, 5	NO
Inventive Step	Claims	(6-15, 17-24)*	YES
	Claims	3, 4	NO
Industrial Applicability	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO

*as far as dependent directly or indirectly upon claim 6

2. Citations and Explanations

1. The process of claim 1 aims at the production of seed crystals of ^amolecular sieve. The process of claim 1 is described in very general terms and consists in a "treatment of an appropriate synthesis mixture" whereby molecular sieve particles of various size are obtained, and further separate these particles into a group of "larger" particles and a group of "smaller" particles, which will then be used as seeds.

Claim 1 does not recite any specific separation step of the two groups of particles; therefore it encompasses all known separation technics.

D1 (EP 0 110 650) recites in its example 1 (page 10 lines 17-22) the use of seed crystals obtained by water-washing crystals separated by filtration from the mother liquor in which the same were formed.

It is thus understood from D1 that zeolitic crystals obtained by "treatment of an appropriate synthesis mixture" were separated by filtration, water-washed, and that the resulting aqueous medium contained the said seeds.

Therefore, claim 1 lacks novelty over D1.

The same objection is made towards claims 2, 5.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

2. Although D1 does not explicitly recite in its example 1 the decanting and centrifuging techniques, these are well known by the skilled practitioner so that claims 3, 4 lack an inventive step.
3. As far as claim 6 is concerned it should be noted that D1's teaching is limited to a separation by filtration, followed by a single water-washing of the as synthesized crystals.

D1 does not suggest or disclose to wash the said crystals more than one^c (compare with present examples, for instance examples 1-4, especially example 2). The specific teaching of this application can be seen in that the wash-water of a subsequent water-washing of the said crystals exhibits unexpected characteristics.

In particular, it was noticed that, while the first washwater appeared to be clear, rather surprisingly a subsequent washwater was hazy. Analysis showed that the washwater was hazy because it contained not the expected traces of unreacted starting materials but rather very small product zeolite crystals. These minute crystals have been found to be very effective as seeds in subsequent zeolite syntheses, and may be used if desired in the form in which they were derived, ie the hazy washwater itself.

None of the available literature disclosing or suggesting this process for gaining seeds or a seeding mixture, claim 6 is regarded as being both novel and inventive over the said literature.

The same conclusion extends to claims 7-10 and 11-15, 17-22 as far as they directly or indirectly depend upon claim 6.

4. As far as claim 16 is concerned, please see box VIII hereinafter.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claim 16 is drawn as a process claim; since claim 15 is a use claim, claim 16 cannot be dependent upon claim 15. Therefore, claim 16 lacks clarity.